## Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Child Protection - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011 Q 'N' A: Item 7 – Cabinet Member Questions - Councillor Lorna Reith



| Point            | Question/Observation   | Answer (Where applicable)  |
|------------------|--|--|
|                  | Questions from Cllr Newton   |  |
| BSF              | How much of Heartlands High School is still to be completed? Are the remaining works on time and within budget?  | The majority of the construction works are now complete and being snagged as they reach completion. The landscaping works are well advanced. We are still on target to achieve practical completion on or before the 29 <sup>th</sup> April, with the agreement that the building will be 100% snag free by this date. Preliminary discussions would indicate that the project will be brought in within budget.   |
| School<br>Meals  | Please provide figures per school for the number of children eligible for free school meals at both primary and secondary level. Are there any children who are eligible who are not taking this up? | The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is counted via the January school census and is information collected in relation to every individual named pupil. The number of pupils who take up a free school meal is also returned via the school census, but it is information collected on a particular day (usually the census day). The information is returned as a number by the school and is not marked against each individual pupil. This means that this figure will fluctuate during the year and the particular figure given is a snapshot. See attachment.                                |
| School<br>Places | What checks are in place to make sure that people applying for a school place reside within a catchment area both when applying for a place and also following any offer of a place?                 | Proof of Residency We ask all parent/carers to provide information to verify that their child lives at the address they have given on their application form.  Parents must supply copies of any two of the following documents (but not two utility bills only). All utility bills must relate to the preceding three months.  • Current mortgage or rent agreement • Current Council Tax bill • Current Child Benefit letter • Latest gas or electricity bill • Documents from the Home Office – NASS (National Asylum Support Service)  This information is published in the admission booklets we provide to |
|                  | School School  | BSF How much of Heartlands High School is still to be completed? Are the remaining works on time and within budget?  School Meals Please provide figures per school for the number of children eligible for free school meals at both primary and secondary level. Are there any children who are eligible who are not taking this up?  School Places What checks are in place to make sure that people applying for a school place reside within a catchment area both when applying for a place and also   |

|   |   |  | parents/carers.  |
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|   |   |  | If we are not satisfied with the information provided, we can request further documents. This can be before or after offers are made. If we are not satisfied that a child was resident at an address once an offer has been made, the place can be withdrawn. If the child has already started school, the length of time that the child had been at the school must be taken into account, for example, the School Admissions Code sets out it might be considered appropriate to withdraw the place if the child has been at the school for less than one term. |
|   |   |  | Measuring home to school distances   |
|   |   |  | We do not have catchment areas in Haringey. Once an address has been verified, then we will apply the admission arrangements for each school. Where a child lives is important when applying the distance criterion. All applicants are listed in distance order and the pupils living closest to the school are offered first.  |
| 4 | Children<br>and<br>Families -<br>Ofsted<br>Inspection         | p.23 of the inspection report states: "Corporate parenting arrangements for looked after children are adequate but lack flair and imagination in engaging all partners and listening to users."  How do you propose to address this?   | A Corporate Parenting Strategy is being developed which will set out how we aim to develop Corporate parenting in Haringey. In addition a multi-agency LAC group has been established to ensure the Council and its partners develop services and opportunities for Looked After Children and Care Leavers which will report to the CPAC.  |
|   |   | Questions from Cllr Winskill   |  |
| 5 | Children<br>in Care: 3<br>or more<br>placement<br>s in a year | At our meeting of 21 Feb we asked for a commentary on why 17% (an upward trend) of children placed in care had three or more placements in the first 12 months. Ms Haith kindly offered to return with specific reasons and examples of how this would be challenged. Please give some information on how much this is adding to CYPS legal costs. | We conducted a review of all children to further understand the reasons for placement moves. Reasons; rapid increase in numbers of LAC and the resulting challenges in meeting that need increase in the number of large/sibling groups who need to be placed together which may require a placement change for one or more siblings. We are further scrutinising and reviewing basic process. There is no significant increase in legal costs as a result of these placement moves.   |
| 6 | Legal<br>costs and<br>time                                    | We asked Ms Haith if we could have a note of Mr Lewis' meeting with the Haringey Bench and specific details of actions being taken to drive down legal costs and expedite processes.   | Reported to the Corporate Parenting Committee on 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2011 and available for download from the website.  |
| 7 | Schools   | Please tell me what arrangements are in place to   | Haringey is maintaining a Governor Support Service as part of the newly  |

| services training. IT support, purchasing support, clerking etc.) and how have these been communicated to schools.  It raining. IT support, purchasing support, clerking etc.) and how have these been communicated to schools.  It reads a capacity.  The following services will continue to be available from the council for school standards Service Continuing Professional Development International Links Governor Support and Training Governing Body Clerking Service Schools Personnel – Recruitment Service Schools Personnel – Recruitment Service Schools Personnel – Recruitment Service Schools Staff Absence Insurance Service Occupational Health and Welfare Service Music and Performing Arts Service School Transport Service School Transport Service School Transport Service Pendarren House Outdoor Education Centre Property and Contracts Service Fixed Play Service Recycling Grounds Maintenance Service School Cleaning Service – London School Cleaning Service – External Organisations (Framework) School Finance Service Cash Collection Service School Catering Service School Library Service (SLS) Access to Corporate Contracts Legal Assistance Insurance Scheme Energy and Sustainability Service School Imarea Service School Insurance Scheme Energy and Sustainability Service  |          |  |  |
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|  |          |  | Energy and Sustamability Service   |
|  |          |  | Schools received notification of this through the normal school mail system on 3   |
| March 2011. This notification was delayed due to the need to assess the imp  |          |  | March 2011. This notification was delayed due to the need to assess the impact     |

|   |                |  | of grant changes and government fu ding cuts on the services.  The council will no longer be offering an IT support service. The current service is heavily subsidised by the Harnessing Technology Grant, which the government has now stopped. There is a ready market for such services and we have supported schools in transferring to new providers. |
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| 8 | Education      | At one of the budget scrutiny meetings I welcomed  | See answer below. Members will recall that this 'new' measure was announced  |
|   | al<br>Achievem | the rise in educational attainment in Haringey's secondary schools but when you look at the new  | by the Secretary of State without prior notice to schools or Local Authority's.  There will be a lead-in time to re-shape the curriculum offer by those schools who  |
|   | ents           | English Baccalaureate measure the results are not quite so impressive! I received the answer below which gives some background but I don't think it really answers my question of how are we going to further raise attainment and raise the level of students achieving the EB? Four of our schools exceed the national average though two only just (16% and 17%) but the rest achieve single figures! What is our plan to drive this new measure up please? | choose to.   |
|   |                | Previous answer The main GCSE measure that is currently in place is the % achieving 5+ A* - C (including English and maths). The trend for that is shown below. Haringey schools have been working hard to improve this measure with considerable success. The new measure for the English Baccalaureate has materialised fairly suddenly from the coalition government.   |  |
|   |                | The national percentage of pupils achieving the English Bacc is 15.6%, the Haringey total is 12.3% Individual school attainment for Haringey (including the English Bacc) are published on the DFE website at <a href="http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/performancetables/group">http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/performancetables/group</a> 10.pl?Mode=Z&Type=   |  |

|   |                                     | LA&Begin=s&No=309&Base=g&Phase=1&F=1&L=5   |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
|   |                                     | <u>0&amp;Year=10&amp;Key=4&amp;Order=asc</u>   |   |
|   |                                     | The English Bacc requires pupils to pass at least 5GCSE's at grade C or above which include; English, maths, science, a language and either geography or history.  Many headteachers and educationalists are very concerned at the way this measure has been introduced.  Bob Garnett is currently on leave – but in a previous email he has commented that"Changes to the school curriculum take time to work through and for schools to be judged fairly by the "English Bacc" standard requires proper notice for schools to change their teaching. For examination classes the |   |
|   |                                     | lead time is two years. Only then will comparisons be at all valid."  Below are links that take you to some of the views expressed over this issue in national and local papers  |   |
|   |                                     | http://www.hornseyjournal.co.uk/news/haringey headteachers unhappy as new traditional gcse league tables are published 1 776901  http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-12160738  |   |
| 9 | Education<br>al<br>Achievem<br>ents | Now that the measure for 5 GCSEs A-C (inc English and Maths) has been raised to 35% what help and support will be given to the three schools (under the new measure) which have fallen below this mark this year?  | Responsibility for standards rests with schools. The residual role of the LA's School Improvement Service is to maintain a strategic view of performance and to provide support and challenge in inverse proportion to each school's success. In the case of schools below the floor targets, the LA will maintain an action plan in consultation with the school leadership and assist the schools in identifying and obtaining the support they need to bring about improvement. Despite the Government's rhetoric about a diminished role for local authorities and despite the Government's redirection of funds from LAs to schools, the Secretary of State has recently asked all local authorities to submit action plans explaining how they plan to provide support and challenge to schools that are in OFSTED categories and those that are otherwise vulnerable. LBH officers are preparing |

|    |   | these for submission by the due deadline (15 <sup>th</sup> April). Again, joint working with LB Enfield will increase capacity in the School Improvement Services of both boroughs.  |
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|    | Questions from Cllr Joseph Ejiofor  |  |
| 10 | How do we monitor our performance as Corporate Parents against the delivery of the 47 promises that the Council signed up to in "The London Pledge for Children and Young People in Care"   | Performance is reported to the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. A full report was presented to the committee at the meeting on 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2011.   |
| 11 | How have we performed?  | The report showed good progress on most areas and identified action to continue this progress.   |
| 12 | How and where is this performance reported to Members?  | As detailed above.   |
| 13 | Can you clarify what statistical / performance monitoring information that you consider that all Councillors have a "need to know"  | This issue of what Councillors "need to know" has been the subject of discussion in the last few days with the Monitoring Officer and a number of Members. The ONS review of Corporate Parenting is due to report on a number of issues and the Director, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, will bring forward proposals on a range of "need to know" issues in due course. Until such time as we have seen the scope of the recommendations, it is premature to anticipate the outcome of these decisions. |
| 14 | Every Council provides annual statistics to Ofsted, and some Councils use these as a basis to provide an Annual Report to all Councillors keeping them informed about the Council's Corporate Parenting performance. When considering Haringey's recent safeguarding performance will you commit to providing a similar report to Haringey Councillors? | A performance report is provided to CPAC bimonthly and specific reports are provided relating to education performance. Reports are based on Ofsted's key indicators with additional information as requested by the committee. If the Councillor would like to provide the names of the Local Authority's to which he refers, we will review their system to see what we might learn.   |

| 15 | How do we monitor the progress on young people who have recently left our care?  | We are required to take reasonable steps to keep in touch with care leall have an allocated Personal Advisor and those who are expulsively are allocated to an 18+ social worker. Each young perpathway plan which is reviewed regularly and all are supported with independent living. We have to ensure that all are provided with accommodation. Employment, education (including support for university) and training advice is available to every care leaver. We provide support services for all young people who wish to access the age of 21. From April this year we will be required to offer this up to the and young people will be able to approach the service for reassessing are over 21. Progress in terms of ETE and accommodation is more performance outcome. |                                     |                                    |                                     |                           |
|----|--|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16 | How and where is this performance reported to Members?   | Please see attachment.   |                                     |                                    |                                     |                           |
| 17 | As at 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2011, how many Children were missing from our Care? How many had gone missing for 8 days or more since 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2010?                     | Data collection and repo   | rting for this ar                   | rea are currenti                   | y under review.                     |                           |
| 18 | Using Internal Audit categories, could you kindly provide details of the proposed budget, and the actual (over)spend in CYPS, and on Safeguarding for 2010-11, 2009-10 and 2008-09 | The Internal Audit categ<br>in systems of internal co<br>That said the Council's<br>subject to the annual ext  | ontrol and, as s<br>financial state | such are not rel<br>ements for tho | evant to financia<br>se years which | l forecasts.<br>have been |
|    |  | The details requested are  | e:                                  |                                    |                                     |                           |
|    |  | £000   | 2008-09                             | 2009-10                            | 2010-11                             |                           |
|    |  | CYPS Budget  | 84,447                              | 72,032                             | 70,557                              |                           |
|    |  | CYPS Outturn   | 85,515                              | 78,667                             | 78,254                              |                           |
|    |  | Safeguarding Budget  | 24,903                              | 29,438                             | 32,623                              |                           |
|    |  | Safeguarding Outturn   | 28,620                              | 36,423                             | 43,654                              |                           |
|    |  | *Estimated outturn for 2010-11   | , - ,                               |                                    | ,                                   |                           |
| 19 | Can you update this committee on the latest information from the consultation on the substantial cuts in Youth Service Provision   | Please see question 20.  |                                     |                                    |                                     |                           |

| 20 |                 | Has the Equalities Impact Assessment on these cuts in Youth Services been completed yet? When will it be available to be read by members and concerned residents?  | This has not been completed yet as the consultation with staff is ongoing and the consultation with young people will finish on April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2011. The EIA will then be finalised and will be available as part of the report to General Purpose Committee. The consultation with the Youth Service results will be available 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2011.  |
|----|-----------------|--|---|
| 21 |                 | At the last meeting, when the Cabinet Member provided statistics on fixed term and permanent exclusions, exclusions of African Caribbean children were "disproportionately" high. The Cabinet member was asked what alternatives were considered to exclusions, and why some schools excluded far fewer pupils than others. What update can be provided on this subject? | Headteacher's attending this meeting will respond.  |
| 22 |                 | In the 11 months to 28/02/11, how many children referred for an initial assessment had previously been referred, then dismissed as requiring no further action?  | Between 01 April 2010 and 28 Feb 2011, 1876 referrals received went on to receive an initial assessment, 331 of these had a referral that had been received in the 12 months prior to this referral 17.6%.  |
|    |                 | Questions from Cllr Rachel Allison   |   |
| 23 | School<br>meals | What is the current % take up of school meals at primary level? What is the lowest and highest % take up and at which schools?   | The information attached relates to the take up of free school meals by pupils who are eligible for free school meals.  |
|    |                 |  | The number of pupils eligible for free school meals is counted via the January school census and is information collected in relation to every individual named pupil. The number of pupils who take up a free school meal is also returned via the school census, but it is information collected on a particular day (usually the census day). The information is returned as a number by the school and is not marked against each individual pupil. This means that this figure will fluctuate during the year and the particular figure given is a snapshot. |
| 24 |                 | Are any primary schools providing breakfast which is available to all children?  | The Schools on our BC programme have indicated that all the children have access to their School's BC. However, to be eligible for the funding we provide, we do require these Schools to prioritise children for a free breakfast who meet one or more of the criteria as stated in our SLA:   |
|    |                 |  | BC1 Children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM)  |

|    |                                     |   | BC2   | Regularly come to school hungry   |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|
|    |                                     |   | BC3   | Have poor attendance and/or poor punctuality records  |
|    |                                     |   | BC4   | <u> </u>  |
|    |                                     |   | BC4   | Have poor concentration   |
|    |                                     |   | BC5   | Have poor behaviour in class  |
|    |                                     |   | BC6   | Safeguarding - also to include children who are at risk because they have   |
|    |                                     |   |   | been left unattended in the playground or outside of the school gates   |
|    |                                     |   |   | early in the morning  |
|    |                                     |   | DOT   | Require childcare provision so that their parents can access training   |
|    |                                     |   | BC7   | opportunities.  |
|    |                                     |   | DC0   | Children from families with difficult circumstances: social care/mental   |
|    |                                     |   | BC8<br>BC9  | health/serious illness/bereavement  |
|    |                                     |   | BC10  | Young carer Parents in receipt of Working Families Tax Credit   |
|    |                                     |   | БСТО  | Parents in receipt of Working Parnilles Tax Credit  |
|    |                                     |   |   |   |
| 25 | Education<br>al<br>achievem<br>ents | The number of children taking a modern language at GCSE has fallen off in recent years but GCSE in a language is required as part of the new English Bac. Can the council do anything to help schools to improve the numbers taking a language? | learning<br>need an<br>The res<br>strategi<br>challeng<br>so, advi<br>Govern<br>maintai | sponsibility for staffing appointments and management of teaching and prests with schools. It is up to headteachers to identify the support they not to purchase it from whichever source they believe to be appropriate. Sidual role of the new School Improvement Service includes taking a coverview of standards and performance and providing support and age to schools in inverse proportion to their success. Where invited to do issers would assist schools in obtaining support for MFL. As a result of the ment's transfer of funding from the LA to schools, the LA will not be using any separate expertise in MFL. |
| 26 | Primary<br>school<br>places         | Are there any plans to turn the PDC back into a primary school in response to need for more places?   | Service<br>Area Te<br>conside<br>school   | time being the PDC will continue as the base for the School Improvement and will continue to provide accommodation for the Multi-Disciplinary eams. The Council's future needs for premises, including schools will be ered as apart of an overall strategic review of property. Plans for primary expansions are under review and the PDC is being considered as part of iew. The outcome will be reported to July Cabinet.  |
| 27 | Children<br>and<br>families         | I understand that supervised visits between LAC and their families often take place in Children's Centres. If, as is proposed, some Centres will have   | reviewii  | e of venues are use for contact; we are currently in the process of<br>ng our contact policy and this will include reviewing the venues for<br>. The relevant services are involved in the children's centre consultation   |

| 28 | Does the lead member consider that the performance of our children's homes is good enough?   | There have been some difficulties in developing our children's homes in the past. The statements of purpose for both homes has now been revised and are with Ofsted. The specific issues which have been raised are being addressed and they related to organisation and not the quality of care and support provided to young people.   |
|----|--|--|
| 29 | What are the main similarities and differences between being a parent and being a corporate parent? What does the lead member consider to be the single most effective change the council could make to improve our corporate parenting? | The concept of "corporate parenting" was introduced with the launch of the Quality Protects programme in 1998. The principle is that the local authority is the parent of any child in their care, and thus has a legal and moral duty to provide the kind of support that any good parents would provide for their own children. This includes enhancing children's quality of life as well as keeping them safe  |
|    |  | We are currently developing a Corporate Parenting Strategy in which we define our role as follows:   |
|    |  | "The responsibility of local authorities in improving outcomes and actively promoting the life chances of children they look after has become known as 'corporate parenting' in recognition that the task must be shared by the whole local authority and partner agencies. The role of the corporate parent is to act as the best possible parent for each child they look after and to advocate on his/her behalf to secure the best possible outcomes". |
| 30 | Does the lead member consider the word 'parent' to be misleading in the term 'corporate parent'?   | When a child is looked after either through a voluntary arrangement or a court order the council and it's partners are responsible for ensuring that services provide the care and support they need. The term corporate parent is helpful overarching term which makes it clear that we and our partners have a collective responsibility for children and young people.  |
| 31 | What have schools been told about the reduction in staffing at the Schools Standards Service?  | Headteachers have been kept informed through briefings at headteachers' meetings, circulation of papers, and briefings for headteacher representatives. Several headteachers were involved in the appointment of staff to the new structure. A special conference for headteachers was held on 31 January to discuss the new School Improvement Service and ways of working together.  |
| 32 | Specifically what consultation took place with   | This consultation is ongoing. It finishes on 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2011. Parents/carers have   |

|    | parents who use play centres and after school provision?   | had written communication and school play service staff and school based p   |  | e based meeting   | gs with officers,  |
|----|--|--|--|---|--|
| 33 | Specifically what consultation has taken place with Haringey Youth Council/SHYS in relation to the cuts? What are the main findings of the consultation, where can the results be found? | Please see question 20. Prior to the place between Cabinet Members and The Leader & Cllr Kober attended a meeting, the Cllr discussed the potentiews of young people on future Coulons Peter Lewis, attended the Youth Council on raised by young people at the first November, 2009. The implications discussed at this meeting.  The minutes of both these meetings the Youthspace website.  The Council is aware that HYC do opportunity for them to be involved youth provision and have asked for formalised, so that the consultation personnel. | Young People meeting of HY ential cuts in lancil priorities. ouncil meeting what had been word on the Stoff the pending will be published in the ongoing consultation of the pending consultation of t | to secure betto<br>C on 13 Octobe<br>local provision<br>g on 17 Noven<br>n done to add<br>treet event which<br>ng cuts in provi<br>thed on Youth C<br>that there has<br>ing consultation  | er engagement. er, 2010. At this and sought the mber, 2010 and ress the issues ch took place in vision were not council pages of been sufficient n on the cut in |
| 34 | How was the cluster-based model for Children's Centres decided upon?   | The cluster-based model has not be intended to retain services in the all and to maintain a wider service arrangements would enable fewer mange of services to be maintained in  | reas that Child<br>e offer acros<br>anagers, more  | dren Centres and state of the contract of the | re most needed<br>h. Clustering  |
| 35 | Can the lead member confirm the following cuts: 0.2m from participation  | The table below summarises all of th   | e Children's S   | ervices savings   | proposals  |
|    | 1.4m from Connexions   | £000   | 2011-12  | 2012-13   | Total  |
|    | 0.1m from teen pregnancy   | School Standards Service Review  | 549  | 0   | 549  |
|    | 0.5m from Play Centres   | Transport  | 50   | 50  | 100  |
|    | 1.5m from Youth Service  | Catering   | 50   | 100   | 150  |
|    | 5.2m from Children's Centres   | Children and Families Administration   | 515  | 295   | 810  |
|    | Are total cuts to the service £11.5m?  | Children's Network Management  | 82   | 11  | 93   |

| Please could you detail what other cuts are being | Participation Review             | 172    | 25    | 197    |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| made  | Connexions                       | 1,436  | 206   | 1,642  |
|   | BSD Service Review               | 706    | 153   | 859    |
|   | Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood | 120    | 17    | 137    |
|   | Early Years and Childcare        | 5,422  | 1,310 | 6,732  |
|   | Behaviour Support, Inclusion and | 317    | 34    | 351    |
|   | Attendance and Welfare           |        |       |        |
|   | After School Childcare           | 576    | 0     | 576    |
|   | Youth Service                    | 1,568  | 392   | 1,960  |
|   | Total                            | 11,563 | 2,593 | 14,156 |
|   |                                  | ·      | ·     | •      |
|   |                                  |        |       |        |